



UPDATE

TASK FORCE 1: BEST PRACTICES IN THE DELIVERY OF AIM

Full Commission Meeting

Jacksonville, Florida

February 24-25, 2011

Task Force 1, “Best Practices in the Delivery of AIM,” is focusing on timeframe, cost, and any additional considerations involved in providing low-incidence, high-cost accessible instructional materials to postsecondary students with disabilities.

Members of Task Force 1:

- Gaeir Deitrich
- Andrew Friedman
- Lizanne DeStefano
- Tuck Tinsley

The Best Practices Task Force is focusing on two areas listed as considerations in the act:

- (I) how students with print disabilities may obtain instructional materials in accessible formats:
 - (aa) within a timeframe comparable to the availability of instructional materials for nondisabled students; and
 - (bb) to the maximum extent practicable, at costs comparable to the costs of such materials for nondisabled students; and
- (VI) solutions for low-incidence, high-cost requests for instructional materials in specialized formats.

Much of the work of this task force is key to and dependent upon the work of the other task forces. Task Force 1 has participated in three teleconferences: one in November, one in December, and one in February.

To date, we have focused on definitions of key terms in the act, and have begun developing working definitions for the full commission’s consideration. Those terms are

- 1) print disability;
- 2) low-incidence, high-cost AIM; and
- 3) timely delivery.

CAST continues to provide assistance by researching congressional reports, OCR letters, and other documents that may be of interest to the task force.

Following the task force's February 16 teleconference, Gaeir Deitrich posted an initial definition of "print disability" for task force members' consideration, as follows:

Print Disability: A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits the individual's ability to read and/or access written material; such limitations may include, but not be limited to, the following conditions:

- **Physical/mobility** impairments that create an inability to physically hold or manipulate a book
 - may include conditions effecting the upper body, such as, mobility impairments, nerve/muscle damage, severe head/neck/upper back pain, or muscle weakness
- **Sensory/perceptual** limitations that affect the ability of the eye to see or of the brain to process written information
 - may include blindness, visual impairment, optic never damage, learning disabilities, traumatic and/or acquired brain injuries, language acquisition difficulties, etc.
- **Mental/psychological** limitations that affect the ability to attend to and process written information
 - may include ADD/ADHD, brain injuries, developmental disabilities, etc.
 - may also include individuals experiencing side effects of medications used to control certain psychological disabilities.

The real work of Task Force 1 will begin after the full commission meeting in Jacksonville, with teleconferences scheduled on a regular basis.